

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-51 (cancelled).

52. (new): A method of building a database of multimedia resources available in a web, the method comprising:

requesting a category node page from a web search engine site which provides pages forming a tree-structured index to resources;

performing a search by following links to child node pages of the index and a spidering search for multimedia resources;

requesting any multimedia resources located;

parsing locators of the requested multimedia resources to obtain keywords related thereto; and

adding the requested multimedia resources to the database in association with the respective related categories and keywords.

53. (new): A method of building a database of multimedia resources available in a web, the method comprising:

requesting a search results page from a web search engine site by sending a request containing a search term thereto;

performing a spidering search for multimedia resources starting at the results page;

requesting any multimedia resources located;

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parsing locators of the requested multimedia resources to obtain keywords related thereto; and

adding the requested multimedia resources to the database in association with the respective related keywords.

54. (new): The method of claim 52, further comprising:

parsing text neighboring links to multimedia resources to obtain keywords relating thereto.

55. (new): The method of claim 52, wherein the requested multimedia resources are added to the database by storing the locators therefor.

56. (new): The method of claim 55, wherein the requested multimedia resources are added to the database by additionally storing reduced resolution versions thereof.

57. (new): The method of claim 52, further comprising:

terminating adding the requested multimedia resources to the database if 1000 multimedia resources have been added to the database.

58. (new): The method of claim 52, wherein image-type multimedia resources are not added to the database if the image type multimedia resources contain less than a predetermined number of pixels.

59. (new): The method of claim 58, wherein the predetermined number is 128.

60. (new): The method of claim 52, wherein for image-type multimedia resources, images are analyzed to extract characteristic information and indexed in the database on the basis of the characteristic information.

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61. (new): An apparatus for building a database of multimedia resources available in a web, the apparatus comprising:

means for requesting a category node page from a web search engine site which provides pages forming a tree-structured index to resources;

means for performing a search by following links to child node pages of the index and a spidering search for multimedia resources;

means for requesting any multimedia resources located;

means for parsing locators of the requested multimedia resources to obtain keywords related thereto; and

control means for adding the requested multimedia resources to the database in association with the respective related keywords.

62. (new): An apparatus for building a database of multimedia resources available in a web, the method comprising:

means for requesting a search results page from a web search engine site by sending a request containing a search term thereto;

means for performing a spidering search for multimedia resources starting at the results page;

means for requesting any multimedia resources located;

means for parsing locators of the requested multimedia resources to obtain keywords related thereto; and

control means for adding the requested multimedia resources to the database in association with the respective related keywords.

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63. (new): The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the means for parsing is configured for parsing text neighboring links to multimedia resources to obtain keywords relating thereto.

64. (new): The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the control means is configured such that the requested multimedia resources are added to the database by storing the locators therefor.

65. (new): The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the control means is configured such that the requested multimedia resources are added to the database by additionally storing reduced resolution versions thereof.

66. (new): The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the control means is configured such that adding the requested multimedia resources to the database is terminated if 1000 multimedia resources have been added to the database.

67. (new): The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the control means is configured such that image-type multimedia resources are not added to the database if the image type multimedia resources contain less than a predetermined number of pixels.

68. (new): The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the predetermined number is 128.

69. (new): The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the control means is configured such that, for image-type multimedia resources, images are analyzed to extract characteristic information and indexed in the database on the basis of the characteristic information.

70. (new): A method of retrieving multimedia resources using a database built according to claim 61, the method comprising:

receiving a keyword or category identifier;

retrieving a first set of images indexed by the keyword in the database;

displaying a subset of the retrieved first set of images;

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receiving a selection input identifying one of the displayed images; and

retrieving and displaying a second set of images, indexed by characteristic information extracted from the selected images in the database from the first set of images.